

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/8/2023 10:25:08 PM

First name: Pam

Last name: Youngquist

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To All It May Concern,

The US Forest Service proposed timber sale for a massive logging project in the Green Mountain National Forest, under the guise of the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project management plan, is a potential travesty of huge proportion.

92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old trees by the Green Mountain National Forest. If logging were to occur on this 11,800 acres of mostly mature and old trees the guaranteed outcome would, without a doubt, be endangering the water quality of Chittenden Reservoir and other waterways, introducing invasive species, and destroying habitat needed by confirmed threatened and endangered species.

But that would not be all. At its worst combined effect logging this land will hasten more climate change disaster not only in Vermont, but the entire country. Indeed, the planet.

The largest 1% of trees in US forests store 30% of all above ground forest carbon in the country. It is ludicrous to spend our tax dollars to subsidize cutting old trees thereby increasing global climate catastrophe.

On the global scale, forest protection represents approximately half or more of the climate change mitigation needed to hold temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Research also shows that New England's forests could store two to four times more carbon if we just let trees grow old undisturbed.

The Green Mountain National Forest has greater carbon density than most forests in the Eastern US. Ensuring the protected environment for these stands of old trees to grow is one of the most effective things that Vermonters can do. We must manage this public land for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity, and put our public forests on a different path right now.

Our children alive today and grandchildren in the future will bear the brunt of the climate catastrophe that is happening unchecked all around us. The International Panel on Climate Change states that time is running out for action.

There is no future time to protect forests. The time is right now. Starting with stopping the Telephone Gap proposed timber sale.

Do you want to be the individual, or member of a governing body, whose own grandchildren cannot survive on this planet because of your short-sighted deleterious decisions? I truly hope not.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment imploring this project not go through.

Sincerely,

Pam Youngquist